

THE EUGENICS REVIEW

Volume XXXII

(Volume XIII, New Series)

APRIL 1940—JANUARY 1941

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MINNESOTA
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Published Quarterly for the Eugenics Society by
MACMILLAN & Co. LTD., St. Martin's Street, London, W.C. 2, England
THE MACMILLAN Co., New York

INDEX—PRICE ONE SHILLING

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The Eugenics Society is not responsible for statements made or opinions expressed by authors of articles, reviews and letters.

The EUGENICS REVIEW is regularly indexed in the *International Index to Periodical Literature*.

Published Quarterly.

London: Macmillan & Co. Ltd., St. Martin's Street, W.C.2.

New York: The Macmillan Co.

Price: Three Shillings per issue and Twelve Shillings per annum, post free.

Issued free to Fellows and Members.

OTHER NOTICES

Fyfe, Hamilton. *The Illusion of National Character.* London, 1940. Watts & Co. Pp. v+274. Price 8s. 6d.

MR. HAMILTON FYFE has written a most readable book. He marshals his evidence with skill and considerable charm but is altogether too sweeping in many of his statements; and occasionally he exaggerates and even distorts the facts. For instance, he says: "Environment is the most powerful moulder of individuality. Material conditions shape our lives far more than hereditary influence." Every eugenicist knows that it depends on what material conditions and what hereditary influence. It may be doubted if even Mr. Fyfe believes that education could make a mental defective capable of following the argument in his book or turn a stone-deaf person into a musician. Environment and heredity are the warp and woof of life—the twin factors out of which we all are built.

But in spite of such occasional exaggeration, Mr. Hamilton Fyfe makes out a most convincing case for the illusion of national character. It is a

pity that he goes on to try and destroy all other national ideas as well. He maintains that, with the exception of the present war against Hitlerism, there has never been a truly defensive war in the whole of history; and that in any case it would never, until this time, have mattered being conquered by a foreign foe. His theme suddenly becomes not merely that patriotism is not enough, but that it is responsible for most of the evil in the world. But with Mr. Fyfe's main theme few people in this country will be inclined to quarrel. He sums it up very well himself in his closing paragraph: "The advance of knowledge, the extending of civilization, have thrown down many of the fences which kept human beings apart. We recognize our common descent, we are beginning to realize our common interest. The chief obstacle in the way of that realization is the illusion of national character." This is indeed a theme which it is most necessary that men should accept to-day as an essential part of the better world which we all hope (against hope!) that our children may live to see.

URSULA GRANT DUFF.

PERIODICALS

American Journal of Physical Anthropology

October-December 1939, Vol. 25, No. 3.—Anatomical racial differences are once more the chief subject in this journal. The radial and ulnar nerves are shown by P'an Ming Tzu to take equal parts in innervation on the digits and dorsum of the hand more often in Chinese and Japanese than in Poles, but cases in which the ulnar nerves take a greater part than the radial are commoner among Japanese than among Chinese. He shows that the sural (cutaneous) nerve of the foot dorsum is far more often formed by union of the medial sural cutaneous branch of the tibial and the peroneal anastomotic branch of the common peroneal than among Europeans. J. K. Rodel, Jr. shows, following Vallois and Martin, that the condylo-diaphysal angle of the humerus is greater in American Indians than in whites. R. R. Lantier, Jr. finds that the presacral column and the maximum transverse diameter of the atlas are greater in whites than in negroes examined; in the former the lumbar, in the latter the cervical vertebral processes are more horizontal. The vestigial pyramidalis muscle is shown by M. F. Ashley-Montagu to be smaller in negroes than in

whites and more often absent in women than in men. C. C. Francis finds that the rate of growth of the tibia in boys is reduced from the age of 3 to the age of 6 but that its reduction in girls is less and occurs about 4½. L. G. and W. C. Boyd give the somewhat inconclusive results of estimations of blood-group reactions of mummy bone and muscle.

H. J. FLEURE.

Annals of Eugenics

December 1939, Vol. 9, Part IV.—*Inbreeding in Mendelian population with special reference to human cousin marriage.*—By J. B. S. Haldane and Pearl Moshinsky.—For a number of unions of close relatives the expected phenotypes of the children are considered in detail, with particular reference to rare recessive conditions. These calculations are performed both for autosomal and for (completely and incompletely) sex-linked genes, those for the latter being published for the first time. The authors show that eugenical considerations would suggest marriage laws differing from those of any existing state; for example the union of double first cousins, permitted by English law, is eugenically as undesirable as that of half-brother with half-sister. Published pedigrees of sex-linked recessive

abnormalities are examined and shown to be in general agreement with theory. This paper contains a very clear account of the theory of inbreeding coefficients, defines the mean coefficient in a population, and estimates this mean coefficient for some European communities.

The equilibrium between mutation and random extinction.—By J. B. S. Haldane; *Stage of development as a factor influencing the variance in the number of offspring, frequency of mutants and related quantities.*—By R. A. Fisher.—In these two related papers are discussed certain problems connected with the survival of genetic mutations and the variance of the number of surviving offspring. Haldane concludes that, in the present state of knowledge of mutation rates, it is unnecessary to apply any correction to the mathematical analysis developed by Fisher in earlier papers.

The distributions in the A₁A₂BO blood groups in England.—By Elizabeth W. Ikin, Aileen M. Prior, R. R. Race and G. L. Taylor.—In a short paper the authors summarize the results of an examination of the blood cells of a sample of 3,696 unrelated individuals in England. Good agreement with the four gene theory was found, the relative frequencies of the A₁, A₂, B, and O genes in the population being estimated as 66 : 21 : 7 : 6.

D. J. FINNEY.

Archiv der Julius Klaus-Stiftung

1939, Vol. 14, No. 3/4.—*Zur Kenntnis des sexuellen Dimorphismus der Laubmoose.* By Marthe Ernst-Schwarzenbach.—This deals with the sexual dimorphism of the genus Bryophyta.—*Das Senium bei eineiigen und zweieiigen Zwillingen. Die Erbentstehung bisher exogen und durch "Abnützung" erklärter Altersleiden.* By A. Vogt, H. Wagner, H. Richner, G. Meyer.—The authors give the results of an examination of 30 pairs of twins aged from 55 to 81 years, of whom 19 were uniovular, 5 biovular, and 6 doubtful. The uniovular twins showed remarkable conformity in their symptoms of senile and presenile decay. This seemed to be quite independent of occupation and living conditions. There was conformity as to the degree and the form of canities (grey-hairedness) and of its onset, the site and shape of alopecia (baldness), the shape, colour and decay of the teeth, and the situation, direction and degree of senile skin wrinkles. Particularly noteworthy was the resemblance in the senile destruction of the eye-ball itself and its constituent parts, macroscopically and microscopically. Pinguecula and gerontoxon were nearly identical in each of the uniovular twin-pairs. Likewise the iris and especially the senile destruction of the pupillary pigment margin, naturally, as these developmental traits were performed in the germ-plasm as to the time of their onset and degree.—The authors further report on the examination of 15 uniovular pairs of twins. The conformity of the senile alterations in the eyes,

the faces and the scalps of both individuals of each uniovular pair impresses the fact on us that such phenomena are predetermined in the germ-plasm to an unthought-of degree—for it is this identical germ-plasm which characterizes uniovular twins. Heredity decides our lives not only from our birth until we have ceased growing, but determines our fate also in the middle years of life and eventually dictates the phenomena of old age and of ageing which precede the physiological termination of life.—In an article on "Ageing, Wasting and Hypovitaminosis," the hereditary factors in these phenomena are discussed.

F. TIETZE.

Character and Personality

December 1939, Vol. 8, No. 2.—*General Home Setting as a Factor in the Study of the Only versus the Non-only Child.* By L. H. Stott.—By comparing groups of forty to fifty only children with control groups, the author shows that differences between them in personality are markedly affected by the type of home in which they have been reared. Only children from city homes tend to be better adjusted than children with brothers or sisters, but most of the differences are negligible among children from farms, and some are actually reversed among children from small towns.

The Reliability of Life-History Studies.—By D. Cartwright and J. R. P. French. Many psychologists are dissatisfied with the progress made in the study of personality by means of tests, and are considering instead the possibilities of case-studies or life-histories. A test will give the scores of groups of individuals on some isolated trait, but a case-study yields an integrated account of all the personality traits of a single individual. It is, however, much more difficult to establish the scientific reliability and validity of the case-study method. This article describes an attempt to compare the case-studies of one student prepared by two investigators, and to estimate the validity of their judgments. The results cannot readily be summarized, but they throw interesting light on the value of the method.

P. J. Fay and W. C. Middleton describe an experiment which showed that the general interests or values (scientific, artistic, religious, etc.) of speakers over the wireless can be judged by listeners from the voices alone, with a degree of success considerably superior to chance. This issue includes also a detailed study of Sainte-Beuve's methods of writing character sketches, by C. K. Trueblood, and an account of the personality and culture of the Mohave Indians, by G. Devereux.

P. E. VERNON.

Genetics

January 1940, Vol. 25, No. 1.—*Multiple alleles (?) in the inheritance of crooked little fingers.* By Robert A. Hefner.—Crooked little fingers (streblo-

microdactyly) as an inherited characteristic may arise as the result of the action of three different types of hereditary factors. Each type shows Mendelian dominance over the normal condition, but it is not known how any of the streblomicrodactylous conditions behaves towards the others. It would be of interest to find a family into which more than one type has been introduced. It has been suggested that multiple alleles are responsible for the three types of streblomicrodactyly, but this is pure hypothesis.

C. D.

The Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology

September-October 1939, Vol. 30, No. 3.—In a paper on *Delinquency A Mental Hygiene Problem*, Bernard O. Wise, State psychiatrist and psychiatric adviser to the Parole Board, Howard, Rhode Island, considers we are appreciating with increasing certainty that there is no fundamental difference between the normal mind and the functionally abnormal—the same laws apply to both, the difference being on emphasis, stress or exaggeration of one or another of the parts of the mind's machinery. He states that psychiatry must not confine its efforts to only those who have mental or nervous diseases, we should work with equal diligence to bring within the scope of our understanding those who have a different moral sense, call it, he adds, unmoral or antisocial if you will. Analogous to intellectual variations, where the minorities grow fewer in number as the more severe extremes are reached at the top and bottom of the scale, is the distribution of the emotional scale. He finds that in delinquents the repressive forces of conscience and guilt are lightly, or not at all, applied, leaving in plain stark view the antagonisms, hostilities and primitive drives openly expressed. Often, he states, there exists a certain limited amount of inhibition, but this is superficial and thinly veneered, and what there is, is easily dissolved in alcohol. However this may be we also find variations on the volitional scale as well as on the intellectual and emotional scales. The author finds that the case histories of the socially recalcitrant and the mentally ill are often surprisingly similar in the violation of the rules of child guidance. The results in both are failures as regards the development of a normal socially and emotionally integrated member of Society. He does not suggest that the average prisoner is in any way mentally unsound, but rather regards him as being socially unsound.

November-December 1939, Vol. 30, No. 4.—N. S. Timasheff, of the Department of Sociology of Harvard University, contributes an interesting paper on *The Treatment of Persistent Offenders Outside of the United States*. He refers to the Prevention of Crimes Act of 1908 in England which introduced into this country in Part II

preventive detention and influenced continental legislators. He finds the recent laws and draft laws concerning persistent offenders are so similar to one another that their separate study would tend to tiring repetition. He considers, however, that a comparative study comprises problems relating to those who are to be eligible for preventive detention, the essence of the treatment, who is to be responsible for its application, the type of sentence, where the sentence is to be served, the conditions under which the persistent offender is to be released, the authority responsible for his release and the juridical status of the offender when released. The author considers these separate problems, and concludes the answer to the question whether preventive detention works sufficiently well to be imitated and developed depends very much upon the results of the application. He rightly considers that the relative number of persistent offenders who behave well after release is not decisive, for their reformation is not to be expected. Two points, however, he considers are decisive:—First, whether the new laws can be enforced, in other words whether they are applied in a sufficient number of cases and in a sensible way; and second, whether the new laws are followed by a decrease in the number of offences committed by persistent offenders, in other words whether the criminal profession is attained in its roots. In England preventive detention has been little used. The Departmental Committee on Persistent Offenders, of which the reviewer was a member, issued its Report in 1932 and stated that during recent years less than forty persons had been dealt with each year under its provisions in England and Wales, and in Scotland was practically a dead letter. Judges have been reluctant to apply the measure which was not sufficiently supported by public opinion in spite of the fact that of 20,384 offenders who had been previously in prison 2,125 had served over 20 previous sentences. The Committee recommended two new forms of sentence, a sentence of Detention for any period of not less than two years and not more than four years, and a sentence of Preventive Detention for any period of not less than five years and not more than ten years. The Criminal Justice Bill, 1938, proposed in Clause 34, in accordance with the recommendations of the Departmental Committee on Persistent Offenders, to substitute provisions enabling Courts of Assize and Quarter Sessions in England and Wales and the High Court of Justiciary and the Sheriff Court in Scotland, to pass, in lieu of, and not in addition to, sentences of imprisonment or penal servitude, two new types of sentences:—(a) Sentences of corrective training for a period of not less than two and not more than four years on persons between twenty-one and thirty years of age whose records, characters and habits are such as to make such a sentence expedient for the training of the offender; and (b) Sentences of preventive

detention for a term of not less than two and not more than four years on persons over the age of thirty, if by reason of the offender's criminal antecedents and mode of life such a sentence is expedient for the protection of the public. For certain types of offenders with records of repeated crime it was proposed by a provision to Clause 34 that such sentences may exceed four but shall not exceed ten years. Unfortunately the outbreak of war last year prevented further consideration of the Bill.

In the same issue of the Journal, Max Huhner, Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine, states in a paper entitled *Crime Does Pay* that there are no data concerning the 85 per cent. of those who

commit crime in America and who have never been arrested or suspected, and that absolutely nothing is known of those criminals who have been content with a modest fortune or have accumulated substantial fortunes in their respective communities. He points out that many men are brought up with the idea that certain really criminal actions are nothing more than good business practices and that they are never troubled by conscience for having defrauded stockholders. He believes that the power of religion is the one great deterrent of crime. The author does not state upon what authority his figures are based, but they seem to be unrelated to the position here.

W. NORWOOD EAST.

CORRESPONDENCE

Psychological Research in War time

To the Editor, Eugenics Review

SIR,—Your comments on the desirability of anthropometric research during war time impel me to suggest that large-scale psychological research is fully as urgently needed. Intelligence tests were applied to all recruits in the American army by trained psychologists twenty-two years ago. No British psychologist, so far as I know, is officially engaged on comparable work for the British army to-day, although a large number are qualified to do it, and have submitted their names under the Central Register system. The data obtained from such testing would be of extraordinary interest to eugenicists.

In many other ways psychologists feel that the contributions which they are anxious to make to the national cause are being ignored. For instance, schemes which were put forward locally for conducting surveys of public morale, and for giving emotional and educational guidance to evacuated children, were killed by lack of official encouragement. Again, there is a widespread drive towards longer hours in factories engaged on war work, which violates all the principles established by the investigations of industrial psychologists.

Social scientists would be the first to admit that their achievements so far are meagre in comparison with the achievements of physical and biological scientists. Yet surely it is clear that the only way in which the problems of mankind can be solved is by promoting the further scientific study of man, and by making full use of such knowledge as we do already possess.

P. E. VERNON.

Department of Psychology,
University of Glasgow.

Eugenics and Mongrelization

To the Editor, Eugenics Review

SIR,—In order that the eugenics movement shall advance successfully, the eugenics organizations must dissociate their endeavours from the widespread propaganda for race amalgamation and mongrelization. There is little wisdom in breeding selectively among individuals if the results are to be nullified by indiscriminate mixing of the races.

Nearly all the arguments against the existence of different races are coming from spokesmen for races that desire admixture to, and absorption by the white race, or Aryan race, using the name in the newer adapted sense. The arguments have utterly failed to change the truth that there are at least three great races—the whites, or Aryans; the Mongolians; and the Negroes. The Jews may be regarded as a sub-race that in some degree, or at least in some countries, may be absorbed by other races.

There has been vastly less race mixture in the northern hemisphere than the amalgamation exponents contend. The United States is not a nation of mixed races, as some writers allege. There has been a small admixture of American Indian and Mexican in some of the western states, and a small admixture of Jews in some of the cities. There are about twelve million Negroes, who have a small fraction of widely diffused white blood, due mainly to miscegenation on the southern plantations before the Civil War. But there is practically no Negro blood in the one hundred and ten million whites, who are almost purely of European descent and have absolutely no intention of amalgamating with the Negroes.

The white race is unquestionably uniquely beautiful and is in many respects of superior